Colchester Public Schools

CABE-PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

9271

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

CODE OF ETHICS

As a guide to performing their duties, Board members should:

1. Be an advocate of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children.
2. As an agent of the state, uphold and enforce all laws, rules, regulations and court orders pertaining to public schools, and bring about any needed change only through legal and ethical means.
3. Help create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, physical condition or social standing.
4. Work to help the community to understand the importance of proper support for public education.
5. Become informed about the nature, value and direction of contemporary education and support needed change in the schools.
6. Serve as a communications link between the community and the schools, working to ensure that the community is fully and accurately informed about the schools, and that the school staff understands the aspirations and desires of the community.
7. Recognize that a Board member's responsibility is not to "run the schools," but to see that they are well-run through effective policies.
8. Confine Board action to policymaking, planning, and appraisal, and consult with those who will be affected by the Board's actions.
9. Arrive at conclusions after fully discussing the issue at an open meeting, and abide by the principle of majority rule.
10. Recognize that authority rests only with the whole Board assembled in a meeting, and make not personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.
11. Never use the position on the Board for personal gain.
12. Hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools that, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.
13. Ensure that all school business transactions be open and ethical.

14. Ensure that the best personnel available are appointed to all positions in the district.
15. Refer all complaints through the proper "chain of command" within the system, and act on such complaints at public meetings only when administrative solutions fail.

CABE SUGGESTED POLICY:

Code of Ethics

The success of every school system depends on an effective working relationship between the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools and the community at large. This code incorporates those standards and responsibilities most critical to productive Board, Superintendent and community relations.

1. Board members and the Superintendent ensure the opportunity for high quality education for every student and make the well-being of students the fundamental goal of all decision-making and actions.

2. Board members and the Superintendent are staunch advocates of high quality free public education for all Connecticut children and will work together to help create public schools which meet the individual educational needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, physical condition or social standing.

3. Board members and the Superintendent honor all national, state and local laws and regulations pertaining to education and public agencies.

4. Board members and the Superintendent will help the community to understand the importance of proper support for public education.

5. Board members and the Superintendent recognize that clear and appropriate communications are key to the successful operation of the school district and that they must ensure that the community remains fully informed on school-related matters. In addition, they will work to help the community to understand the importance of proper support for public education.

6. Board members and the Superintendent will always carry out their respective roles with the highest levels of professionalism, honesty and integrity.

7. The Superintendent and Board members recognize that the Superintendent serves as the Board of Education's agent and will, in that role, faithfully apply the policies and contracts adopted by the Board. Board members recognize that their responsibility is not to "run the schools," but to see that they are well-run through effective policies.

8. Board members adhere to the principle that they shall confine the Board's role to policy-making, planning and appraisal while the Superintendent shall implement the Board's policies.

9. Board members and The Superintendent both recognize that they serve as a part of an educational team with mutual respect, trust, civility and regard for each other's respective roles and responsibilities.

~~10. Board members are committed to the concept that the strength of the Superintendent is in being the educational leader of the school district.~~

11. Board members and The Superintendent practice and promote ethical behavior in the Boardroom as a model for all district employees. Board members will never use the position on the Board for personal gain.

12. Board members will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools that, if disclosed, might needlessly injure individuals or the schools.

13. Board members and The Superintendent consider and decide all issues fairly and without bias.

(cf. 2300 - Code of Ethics for Administrators)

Bylaw adopted by the Board: November 18, 1997
REVISED: January 14, 2020

COLCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Colchester, Connecticut